



Stephen O'Donoghue  
Team Leader - Planning Services, Resource and Energy Assessments  
Department of Planning & Environment

Dear Stephen,

**Re: Objection to the Queensland-Hunter Gas Pipeline (Mod 1)**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the application.

The Wilderness Society opposes the proposal to extend the approval for the Hunter Gas Pipeline for an additional five years beyond its original ten year deadline for construction to commence.

A lapse deadline is important to ensure that current matters of relevance are considered by the government agencies and that local communities have a say in the process. Ten years is too long to expect that environmental, social and economic conditions will remain unchanged.

The proposed pipeline is 420 km long and spans ten local government areas, crosses rivers and vast expanses of productive farmland. It is not acceptable that there is no new assessment of the potential impacts of this diverse geography from this significant linear infrastructure project.

Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd claims '[t]here are no changes to the environmental or amenity impacts as assessed.' Yet how could it know this? Over ten years significant local social-geographical and environmental changes have occurred. The details of this can only be ascertained through a proper assessment process. What we do know is that in a ten year period there are newly listed endangered ecological communities, extensions of protected areas, new housing developments and growth of existing population centres and significant changes in farming and other business enterprises on the ground. There is also a high likelihood that understandings about local cultural heritage across this distance has improved.

The company's justification for the extension is based wholly upon the supposed gas shortage, however there is no consideration here of import terminals nor shifting demand and an approval must not be granted based on only on an economic justification - a thorough assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts must be undertaken.

Fundamentally, this project is designed to facilitate the expansion of the fossil fuel industry in eastern Australia and to further entrench the reliance of NSW consumers on a resource that, according to the IPCC, we need to be urgently leaving behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naomi Hodgson'.

Naomi Hodgson  
Campaign Manager  
The Wilderness Society, Newcastle